

VZCZCXRO6378
PP RUEHBI RUEHCI
DE RUEHCG #0031/01 0120730
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 120730Z JAN 07
FM AMCONSUL CHENNAI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0550
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2179
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 4934
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 0674

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CHENNAI 000031

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS, DS/IP/SCA, DS/ITA AND DS/OSAC

NEW DELHI FOR POL, RSO, FCS, DAO AND ODC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: BANGALORE TOP COP CONFIDENT ON SECURITY

REF: A) CHENNAI 015 B) 06 CHENNAI 2467

¶1. (SBU) Summary: Karnataka's new Director General of Police says multinational companies and other Western interests need not be worried about security in Bangalore, India's high-tech hub and the reported target of recently arrested terror suspects. He assured us, however, that security forces are not complacent and are actively pursuing investigations of the suspects. Very positively inclined towards the U.S., the DGP promised special attention for U.S. interests during the upcoming Aero India air show and offered hope of improved liaison on law enforcement matters. End summary.

Bangalore Security: "Let Them Not Be Worried"

¶2. (SBU) In a January 9 meeting with Chennai Principal Officer, Karnataka's new Director General of Police (DGP), K.R. Srinivasan, said American and other companies in Bangalore need not be worried about security. Responding to questions about the January 6 arrest near Bangalore of suspected terrorist Imran (ref a) and the October 27 arrests in Mysore (ref b), Srinivasan offered his personal assessment that terrorists are unlikely to target Bangalore, preferring to take advantage of the city's cosmopolitan, multi-language atmosphere as a place where they can blend-in and take "R&R" rather than make a target. The DGP, who assumed office on January 1, quickly added, however, that the police are "not complacent." Regarding the Imran arrest, Srinivasan said police interrogators from Imran's native Jammu and Kashmir and from Maharashtra are taking the lead in questioning the suspect. He also said the police are moving cautiously in order not to "spook" Imran's contacts in the local community.

¶3. (SBU) We stressed to DGP Srinivasan our interest in details about the terror suspects, particularly any connections to the U.S. such as the supposed money transfers via the U.S. to the Mysore suspects. While acknowledging the validity of our inquiries, Srinivasan noted that sometimes information must move from "desk to desk," such as between relevant Indian authorities and our Embassy. He was more optimistic, however, about our request for biographic information on the suspects (for purposes such as Visas Viper) and promised to follow up informally in that regard.

Arrangements for Aero India

¶4. (SBU) DGP Srinivasan said the Karnataka State Police, which he directs, have overall security responsibility for the Aero India air show which Bangalore will host in early February. He assured us he is aware of the large U.S. military and commercial participation

planned for the show, and he offered to provide extra security for the hotels and facilities where U.S. personnel will stay. Srinivasan added that he soon will meet with the Chief of the Indian Air Force to review security arrangements for Aero India. He said that although there will be minor "inconveniences" for security reasons, Aero India will run smoothly and safely. We told the DGP that Ambassador Mulford is very likely to attend part of the air show and that we will provide details about his program and that of other high level U.S. officials as those become available.

Promise for Enhanced Security Liaison

15. (SBU) We also briefed DGP Srinivasan on the role of post's Regional Security Officer, emphasizing his responsibility for the security of all U.S. officials personnel and facilities in South India, including Bangalore, and his advisory role for U.S. businesses and non-official interests. Srinivasan enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to meet the RSO, which we offered to arrange as soon as possible, and he promised close and regular liaison. He even provided his mobile telephone number to pass to the RSO, saying we should call directly about any security needs.

Comment: Over Confidence?

16. (SBU) Comment: Open and positive, DGP Srinivasan exuded friendship towards the U.S., recalling earlier dealings with Consulate and Embassy officials and proudly telling us about his U.S. citizen son, U.S. resident daughter and other family connections in the U.S. While there can be no doubt about his friendship and good will, we hope his confidence in Bangalore's

CHENNAI 00000031 002 OF 002

security is not misplaced. The recent arrests are disquieting at the least, and it occurs to us that Mumbai's cosmopolitan, multi-language atmosphere certainly has not discouraged its targeting by terrorists. Notable, however, is that the DGP is not the only person seemingly confident about Bangalore security. Asked about security and the recent arrests, Sammy Sana, head of Motorola's Bangalore-based Global Software Group and current chair of the local American Chamber of Commerce, quickly assured us that major multi-nationals such as Motorola are confident in their robust security arrangements. End comment.
Hopper